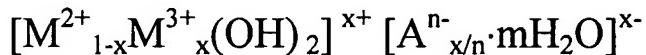


AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} is at least one organic anion comprising a carboxylate of an amino-acid containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur and halogens.

2. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said divalent cation source, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

3. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said trivalent cation source, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1 4, wherein said amino acid comprises 4-aminobutyric acid.

6. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1 4 wherein said amino acid comprises 6-aminocaproic acid.

7. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of self exfoliation.

8. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 7, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

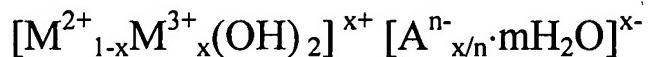
9. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

10. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} comprises Mg^{2+} and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+} .

11. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} comprises a mixture of Al^{3+} and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from Al^{3+} , Cr^{3+} and Fe^{3+} .

12 - 32 [Canceled]

33. (Currently amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend comprising:
at least one poly-addition polymer; and
a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} is at least one organic anion comprising a carboxylate of an amino-acid containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur and halogens.

34. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

35. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

36. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said at least one poly-addition polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutene-1, poly-4-methyl pentene-1, polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene.

37. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said at least one poly-addition polymer comprises a maleated polyolefin.

38. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 37, wherein said maleated polyolefin comprises maleated polypropylene.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33 39,

wherein said amino acid comprises 4-aminobutyric acid.

41. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33 39, wherein said amino acid comprises 6-aminocaproic acid.

42. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33 39, wherein said at least one polymer comprises a maleated polyolefin.

43. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 42, wherein said maleated polyolefin bonds with said amino acid in the form of an amide.

44. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 42, wherein said maleated polyolefin bonds with said amino acid in the form of an imide.

45. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of self exfoliation.

46. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 45, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

47. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

48. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said divalent cation, M²⁺ contains Mg²⁺ and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, Zn²⁺, Cu²⁺ and Mn²⁺.

49. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said trivalent cation, M³⁺ contains Al³⁺ and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from Cr³⁺ and Fe³⁺.

50 - 70 (Canceled)